

REMARKS

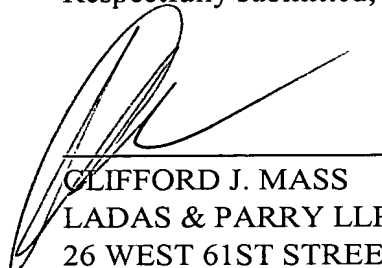
The Official Action of November 4, 2004 has been carefully considered and reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The indication that the claimed subject matter, if limited to the polyfunctional oligomers of formula (1) with X=NAG and the process of forming such oligomers (X=NAG), would distinguish over the prior art has been noted with appreciation. The recited polyfunctional oligomers have now been so limited. This is respectfully believed to remove the basis for the rejection under 35 USC 112, first paragraph appearing at pages 2 and 3 of the Official Action.

The claims have also been amended to remove the bases for the claim objections appearing on page 2 of the Official Action and for the claim rejections under 35 USC 112, second paragraph appearing on pages 4-5 of the Official Action. All claims as amended are respectfully believed to be sufficiently definite to satisfy the dictates of 35 USC 112, second paragraph.

In view of the above, it is respectfully considered that all objections and rejections of record have been overcome and that the application is now in allowable form. An early notice of allowance is earnestly solicited and is believed to be fully warranted.

Respectfully submitted,



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